Abbotsford Police Department

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"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

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Incident: PIN Pad Theft and Replacement

Abbotsford – December 3, 2009.

On November 26, 2009 a PIN pad, used for debit and credit card transactions, was stolen from a furniture store in Coquitlam. RCMP in that city conducted an investigation of that theft. On that same evening 2 men and 1 woman arrived at an Abbotsford business in the 2600 block of Trethewey Street just before closing time. A man then swapped the stolen PIN pad from Coquitlam with the one from this business while his male and female accomplices distracted staff. The purpose for doing this is to install a parasite computer device on the stolen PIN pad and to eventually return it. With the parasite device activated, customers' personal information including debit and credit card data and PIN numbers can be obtained. Once this information is acquired it can be used to re-encode cards with magnetic strips that can be used for fraudulent withdrawals and purchases from the accounts of unsuspecting victims. Alert staff at both business locations noticed the stolen and swapped PIN pads and prevented these losses from occurring.

Attached are still photos of the suspects from the Abbotsford business.

Anyone who can assist in the identification of these 3 suspects is asked to contact the Detective Koppes of the Abbotsford Police Department at 604-859-5225 or CRIMESTOPPERS at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.